

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 AID-20

OMB-01 DRC-01 NSC-07 /109 W  
----- 075989

R 020630Z AUG 74  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5311  
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES  
AMCONSUL LUANDA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, NI, PO  
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN REACTION TO SPINOLA SPEECH ON INDEPENDENCE  
FOR PORTUGUESE COLONIES

1. GENERAL GOWON GAVE FIRST OFFICIAL NIGERIAN REACTION TO PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT SPINOLA'S RECENT SPEECH ON INDEPENDENCE FOR PORTUGUESE COLONIES DURING BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN GUINEA-BISSAU BY PAIGC SYG AUSTIDES PEREIRA ON JULY 29. GOWON WELCOMED SPINOLA'S STATEMENT ACCEPTING GOAL OF INDEPENDENCE, AND DECLARED THAT IF PORTUGAL IMPLEMENTED ITS POLICIES, "IT WOULD ENDEAR ITSELF TO AFRICA AND OTHER PEACE LOVING PEOPLE OF WORLD." MEANWHILE, GOWON REITERATED HIS ASSURANCES OF MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO GUINEA-BISSAU IN ACHIEVING ITS "NATIONAL GOALS AND LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS."

2. NEWSPAPER REACTION HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE, THOUGH  
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RIFE WITH WARNINGS THAT, UNTIL PROMISES ARE FULFILLED,

LIBERATION MOVEMENTS MUST REMAIN UNITED AND ON GUARD.

3. COMMENT: GOWON REACTION IS IN LINE WITH HIS PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED "CARROT AND STICK" POLICY OF PROMISING PORTUGAL AFRICAN FRIENDSHIP IN EXCHANGE FOR PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER BY PORTUGUESE TO AFRICANS, WHILE WARNING THAT FAILURE TO TAKE SUCH ACTION WOULD RESULT IN AFRICAN RESORT "TO OTHER LEGITIMATE MEANS" TO END RACIST REGIMES (LAGOS 6475 AND 6856). DESPITE CALLS BY SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS FOR CONTINUATION OF ARMED STRUGGLE IN COLONIES UNTIL INDEPENDENCE ACTUALLY REALIZED, FMG LIKELY TO SUPPORT -- AT LEAST PRIVATELY -- WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE TO GIVE SPINOLA OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP WORD.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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